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July 2009

Regional Economic Indicators

Peace Country Region

Government of Alberta

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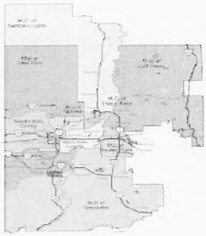

PEACE COUNTRY REGION

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MAJOR MUNICIPALITIES

According to Statistics Canada census data, the major municipality in the Peace Country Region that gained the most population from 2001 to 2006 was Grande Prairie with an increase of 27.3% or 10,093 residents.

Economic Indicators: Peace Country Region				
Major Municipalities*	**Status**	**2006 Population**	**2001 Population**	**1996 Population**
Grande Prairie	City	47,076	36,983	31,140
Grande Prairie No. 1, County of	Municipal District	17,970	15,638	13,750
Peace River	Town	6,315	6,240	6,536
Greenview No. 16, M.D. of	Municipal District	5,485	5,439	5,433
Northern Lights No. 22, M.D. of	Municipal District	3,772	3,636	3,880
Fairview	Town	3,297	3,155	3,316
Clear Hills County	Municipal District	2,714	2,787	2,886
Saddle Hills County	Municipal District	2,458	2,566	2,689
Grimshaw	Town	2,537	2,435	2,661
Smoky River No. 130, M.D. of	Municipal District	2,442	2,405	2,491
Source: Statistics Canada Census 1996, 2001, 2006				

*** Top ten cities/towns and municipalities in region, based on population from census years.**

Economic Indicators: Peace Country Region				
	2001 - 2006 (5 Years)		**1996 - 2006 (10 Years)**	
Major Municipalities	**% Change**	**Net Change**	**% Change**	**Net Change**
Grande Prairie	27.3%	10,093	51.2%	15,936
Grande Prairie No. 1, County of	14.9%	2,332	30.7%	4,220
Peace River	1.2%	75	-3.4%	(221)
Greenview No. 16, M.D. of	0.8%	46	1.0%	52
Northern Lights No. 22, M.D. of	3.7%	136	-2.8%	(108)
Fairview	4.5%	142	-0.6%	(19)
Clear Hills County	-2.6%	(73)	-6.0%	(172)
Saddle Hills County	-4.2%	(108)	-8.6%	(231)
Grimshaw	4.2%	102	-4.7%	(124)
Smoky River No. 130, M.D. of	1.5%	37	-2.0%	(49)
Source: Statistics Canada Census 1996, 2001, 2006				

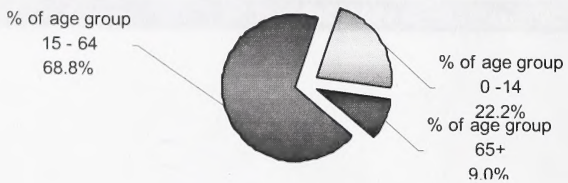
DEMOGRAPHICS

According to Statistics Canada census data, the Peace Country Region's population increased 11.6% from 2001 to 2006, or by 12,359 residents. This region's population accounts for 3.6% of the province's population.

Economic Indicators: Peace Country Region	
Land Area	**Peace Country**
Square Kilometers	109,236.7
% of Provincial Total	17.1
Total Population	**Peace Country**
Population (000s), 2006 Census	118,934
% of Provincial Total	3.6%
Population (000s), 2001 Census	106,575
% of Provincial Total	3.6%
Population (000s), 1996 Census	100,085
% of Provincial Total	3.8%
Population Growth (%), 2001 - 2006	11.6%
Population Growth (%), 1996 - 2006	18.8%
Source: Statistics Canada, Census 1996, 2001, 2006	

Economic Indicators: Peace Country Region			
Population Components	**2006**	**2001**	**1996**
Age Group: 65+ (%)	9.0	8.7	8.2
Age Group: 0 - 14 (%)	22.2	23.9	25.7
Dependency Ratio [1]	45.4	48.1	51.2
Old Age Dependency Ratio [2]	13.1	12.9	12.4
Males, Ages 0 -14 (%)	22.3	23.9	25.7
Females, Ages 0 - 14 (%)	22.2	23.6	25.6
Males, Ages 15 - 64 (%)	68.6	67.8	66.7
Females, Ages 15 - 64 (%)	65.8	67.2	65.5
Males, Ages 65+ (%)	11.6	8.2	7.7
Females, Ages 65+ (%)	15.1	9.2	8.9
Source: Statistics Canada, Census 1996, 2001, 2006			

Total Population by Age Group, 2006



IMMIGRATION – PERMANENT RESIDENTS

According to Citizenship and Immigration Canada, in 2007, 212 immigrants selected a location in the Peace Country Region as their destination of choice on their permanent residence application form.

Please note: This figure does not include temporary foreign workers, students or temporary residents. Also, those that selected a certain province as their destination of choice on their permanent residence application are not required to move to the province indicated. This means that there could potentially be data missing due to immigrants indicating one province as their destination and then actually moving to another.

The annualized percentage growth in immigration from 1997 to 2007 for the Peace Country Region was 7.5%. The annualized percentage growth from 1997 to 2007 for Alberta was 4.8%. The total change for the Peace Country Region was 64.3% (83) between 2002 to 2007, and 105.8% (109) between 1997 and 2007.

Economic Indicators: Peace Country Region	
Immigrants, CIC (Permanent Residents) [3]	**Peace Country**
As of December 31, 1997	103
% of Province	0.8%
As of December 31, 1998	103
% of Province	0.9%
As of December 31, 1999	73
% of Province	0.6%
As of December 31, 2000	124
% of Province	0.9%
As of December 31, 2001	110
% of Province	0.7%
As of December 31, 2002	129
% of Province	0.9%
As of December 31, 2003	99
% of Province	0.6%
As of December 31, 2004	165
% of Province	1.0%
As of December 31, 2005	133
% of Province	0.7%
As of December 31, 2006	165
% of Province	0.8%
As of December 31, 2007	212
% of Province	1.0%
Annualized Percentage Growth, 1997 - 2007, 10 years[4]	**7.5%**
Source: Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) Landing File	

LABOUR FORCE CHARACTERISTICS

According to the Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey, the Peace Country Region's employment rate for the working age population of 15 years and older was 75.7% in 2007 and the participation rate was 78.8%.

In 2007, the Peace Country Region's employment rate for the 15 to 24 year old age group was 72.4% and the participation rate was 78.2%. In that same year, the unemployment rate for the working age population of 15 years and over was 3.9%. Alberta had the lowest unemployment rate in Canada at 3.5% - well below the national average of 6.0%.

Between 2006 and 2007, the number of people employed in Alberta grew by 4.7% or by 88,700. Over that same period, employment in the Peace Country Region declined by an estimated 2,700 or 3.3%. Between 2002 and 2007, the number of people employed in Alberta grew by about 298,000 or 17.2%, and by 3,700 or 4.9% in the Peace Country Region.

In 2007, Alberta made up 10.3% of Canada's working age population (15+ years), the province created nearly a quarter (23.2%) of all new jobs in Canada. Alberta created nearly as many new jobs as Ontario (88,700 vs 101,100), which has more than three times the working age population of Alberta.

Economic Indicators: Peace Country Region

Annual Labour Force Characteristics[5]	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002
Population: 15+ (000s)	104.5	106.2	102.6	100.9	100.5	101.7
Labour Force: 15+ (000s)	82.3	84.2	80.4	77.7	76.9	79.7
Employment: 15+ (000s)	79.1	81.8	78.0	74.4	72.4	75.4
Unemployment: 15+ (000s)	3.2	2.4	2.4	3.3	4.4	4.3
Participation Rate: 15+ (%)	78.8	79.3	78.4	77.0	76.5	78.4
Unemployment Rate: 15+ (%)	3.9	2.9	3.0	4.2	5.7	5.4
Employment Rate: 15+ (%)	75.7	77.0	76.0	73.7	72.0	74.1
Participation Rate - Age Group: 15 - 24 (%)	78.2	77.8	79.5	73.7	75.4	72.9
Unemployment Rate - Age Group: 15 - 24 (%)	N/A	N/A	N/A	9.7	10.1	10.3
Employment Rate - Age Group: 15 - 24 (%)	72.4	77.8	75	66.5	67.8	65.3

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey
N/A = data are suppressed due to insufficient sample size.

Statistics Canada cautions the reader that the regional labour force data may be subject to large year-to-year fluctuations, especially for the smaller regions, for the following reasons. First, there are no population control totals for special geographies such as these regions. Second, some of the smaller regions have small sample size, leading to greater volatility in the estimates. Third, Statistics Canada periodically redesigns its survey methodology; the latest redesign was done in 2005.

EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

In 2007, according to Statistics Canada's Labour Force Survey, the services-producing sector in the Peace Country Region accounted for 68.0% of the total number employed.

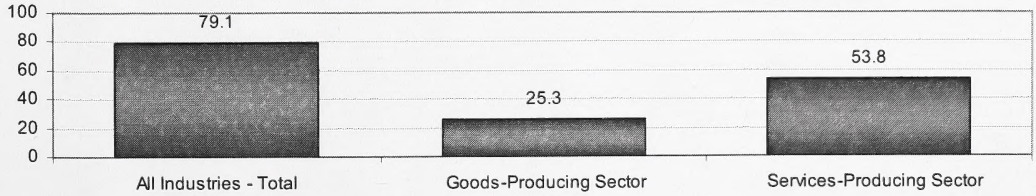
The Forestry, Fishing, Mining, Oil and Gas industry had the highest number of individuals employed with approximately 10,300 jobs. This industry is followed by Retail Trade, Health Care and Social Assistance, and Construction.

Economic Indicators: Peace Country Region						
Annual Employment by Industry[6]	**2007**	**2006**	**2005**	**2004**	**2003**	**2002**
All Industries (000s) - Total	**79.1**	**81.8**	**78.0**	**74.4**	**72.4**	**75.4**
Goods-Producing Sector	**25.3**	**28.5**	**28.1**	**25.3**	**25.2**	**22.2**
Agriculture	3.4	4.6	4.4	2.8	5.1	3.2
Forestry, Fishing, Mining, Oil & Gas	10.3	11.2	11.4	10.4	9.7	7.6
Utilities	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Construction	7.2	8.1	7.9	6.8	5.6	6.3
Manufacturing	3.8	4.1	3.7	4.8	4.0	4.3
Services-Producing Sector	**53.8**	**53.3**	**49.9**	**49.1**	**47.3**	**53.2**
Wholesale Trade	3.2	3.5	2.8	2.7	3.1	3
Retail Trade	10.1	11.5	11.3	9.2	7.9	10.2
Transportation & Warehousing	4.6	4.4	4.3	4.9	3.8	4.1
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate & Leasing	3.5	4.0	2.5	3.2	3.1	2.3
Professional, Scientific & Technical Services	4.1	4.1	3.0	2.9	2.4	3.6
Business, Building & Other Support Services	2.3	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Educational Services	4.8	3.6	4.0	4.3	3.6	3.6
Health Care & Social Assistance	7.7	6.7	7.2	6.7	6.4	7.7
Information, Culture & Recreation	1.7	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Accommodation & Food Services	5.0	5.5	5.2	4.7	6.1	7.0
Other Services	5.2	4.2	3.8	4.1	3.8	5.2
Public Administration	1.7	2.4	2.0	3.2	3.3	2.4

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey
N/A = data are suppressed, due to insufficient sample size.

Statistics Canada cautions the reader that the regional labour force data may be subject to large year-to-year fluctuations, especially for the smaller regions, for the following reasons. First, there are no population control totals for special geographies such as these regions. Second, some of the smaller regions have small sample size, leading to greater volatility in the estimates. Third, Statistics Canada periodically redesigns its survey methodology; the latest redesign was done in 2005.

Employment by Industry, Peace Country, 2007 (In '000s)



INCOME, TAXFILER

In 2006, the average individual income for all taxfilers for the Peace Country Region was $40,380, a 14.4% increase from 2005. The percentage of taxfilers that reported an individual gross income of $100,000 and over in 2006 was 7.1%.

Economic Indicators: Peace Country Region			
Individual Income[7]	**2006**	**2005**	**2004**
Average Individual Income ($)	40,380	35,300	30,490
Income Range		%	
Negative Claims (Includes $0)	16.4%	15.7%	16.5%
$1 - $20,000	26.5%	30.0%	32.5%
$20,000 - $40,000	20.3%	21.2%	21.3%
$40,000 - $60,000	14.1%	13.6%	13.1%
$60,000 - $80,000	9.8%	9.3%	8.6%
$80,000 - $99,999	5.9%	5.0%	4.2%
$100,000+	7.1%	5.2%	3.8%
Source: Alberta Finance and Enterprise			

In 2006, the average couple (defined as married or common-law) income for the Peace Country Region was $112,505, an increase of 15.4% from 2005. The percentage of taxfilers that defined themselves as a couple and reported an income of $100,000 and over was 40.0%

Economic Indicators: Peace Country Region			
Couple Income[7]	**2006**	**2005**	**2004**
Average Couple Income ($)	112,505	97,465	83,020
Income Range		%	
Negative Claims (Includes $0)	0.3%	0.5%	0.5%
$1 - $20,000	4.9%	5.4%	6.6%
$20,000 - $40,000	13.0%	15.1%	17.4%
$40,000 - $60,000	12.5%	14.8%	16.5%
$60,000 - $80,000	14.6%	16.3%	17.0%
$80,000 - $99,999	14.7%	15.6%	15.0%
$100,000+	40.0%	32.4%	26.9%
Source: Alberta Finance and Enterprise			

INVESTMENT

In 2007, the total building permit value for the Peace Country Region decreased by 7.3% from 2006 to $604.4 million. This is still 78.6% above the 10-year average of $338.5 million. Between 2006 and 2007, the residential building permit value for the Peace Country Region increased by one per cent to $322.4 million.

In 2007, the number of housing starts in the Peace Country Region decreased by 23.2% from 2006 to 1,957. However, the 2007 number of starts was 43.4% higher than the 10-year average of 1,365. The number of single family housing starts in the region decreased by 31.2% from 2006 to 1,201.

Economic Indicators: Peace Country Region			
Building Permit Values and Housing Starts (2007)	**2007**	**2006**	**2005**
Total Building Permit Value ($000s)	604,366	652,018	404,451
% of Provincial Total	3.8%	4.7%	4.0%
Per Capita Building Permit Value ($)[8]	5,082	5,482	3,546
Total Building Permit Value ($000s), 5-year average (2003 - 2007)	450,892		
Total Building Permit Value ($000s), 10-year average (1998 - 2007)	338,450		
Commercial Building Permit Value ($000s)	154,764	197,225	91,940
Commercial % of Total Building Permit Value	25.6%	30.2%	22.7%
% of Provincial Commercial Building Permit Value	3.2%	5.4%	3.9%
Industrial Building Permit Value ($000s)	46,921	126,390	71,913
Industrial % of Total Building Permit Value	7.8%	19.4%	17.8%
% of Provincial Industrial Building Permit Value	4.9%	12.0%	8.4%
Institutional Building Permit Value ($000s)	80,290	9,196	43,667
Institutional % of Total Building Permit Value	13.3%	1.4%	10.8%
% of Provincial Institutional Building Permit Value	9.3%	0.9%	4.8%
Residential Building Permit Value ($000s)	322,391	319,207	196,931
Residential % of Total Building Permit Value	53.3%	49.0%	48.7%
% of Provincial Residential Building Permit Value	3.6%	3.9%	3.3%
Single Family Housing Starts	1,201	1,746	1,207
Single Family Housing Starts, 5-year average (2003 - 2007)	1,215		
Single Family Housing Starts, 10-year average (1998 - 2007)	1,004		
Total Housing Starts	1,957	2,547	1,698
Total Housing Starts, 5-year average (2003 - 2007)	1,706		
Total Housing Starts, 10-year average (1998 - 2007)	1,365		
Source: Statistics Canada, Compilation by Alberta Finance and Enterprise			

ESTABLISHMENTS WITH EMPLOYEES

In 2007, 65.7% of all business establishments with employees in the Peace Country Region were classified in the services-producing sector which includes such industries as Retail Trade, Accommodation and Food Services, and Public Administration.

From 2006 to 2007, there was a net increase of 5.2% or 386 in the number of establishments with employees for all industries in the Peace Country Region. Between 2002 and 2007, the number of establishments with employees for all industries in the Peace Country Region increased by 22.1% or by 1,405 establishments.

From 2006 to 2007, the goods-producing sector in the Peace Country Region had a net increase of 0.7% or 18 establishments. Over the same period, the services-producing sector in the Peace Country Region had a net increase of 7.8% or 368 establishments.

Economic Indicators: Peace Country Region					
Establishment with Employees[9]	2007	2006	2002	1 Year % Change	5 Year % Change
Total All Industries	7,771	7,385	6,366	5.2%	22.1%
Total Goods Industries	2,662	2,644	2,290	0.7%	16.2%
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	593	682	739	-13.0%	-19.8%
Mining and Oil and Gas Extraction	750	689	495	8.9%	51.5%
Utilities	18	14	9	28.6%	100.0%
Construction	1,135	1,099	889	3.3%	27.7%
Manufacturing	166	160	158	3.8%	5.1%
Total Service Industries	5,109	4,741	4,076	7.8%	25.3%
Wholesale Trade	384	303	304	26.7%	26.3%
Retail Trade	661	589	541	12.2%	22.2%
Transportation and Warehousing	706	661	531	6.8%	33.0%
Information and Cultural Industries	51	48	44	6.3%	15.9%
Finance and Insurance	169	140	114	20.7%	48.2%
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	330	324	239	1.9%	38.1%
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	763	772	577	-1.2%	32.2%
Management of Companies and Enterprises	75	57	72	31.6%	4.2%
Administrative, Waste Management and Remediation	333	322	258	3.4%	29.1%
Educational Services	52	48	51	8.3%	2.0%
Health Care and Social Assistance	341	307	296	11.1%	15.2%
Arts, Entertainment and Recreation	83	88	87	-5.7%	-4.6%
Accommodation and Food Services	265	273	282	-2.9%	-6.0%
Other Services (except Public Administration)	856	769	639	11.3%	34.0%
Public Administration	40	40	41	0.0%	-2.4%

Source: 2007 Alberta Business Monitor, Alberta Finance and Enterprise

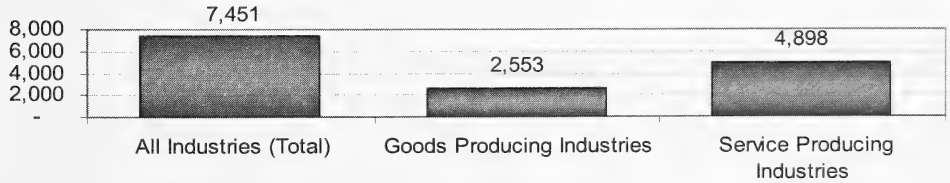
SMALL BUSINESS ESTABLISHMENTS

In 2007, 96.1% of all business establishments in the Peace Country Region were classified as small business (businesses that have between 1 and 49 employees). The Construction industry had the largest number of small businesses followed by Other Services and Professional, Scientific and Technical Services.

From 2006 to 2007, the total number of small business establishments in the Peace Country Region grew by 6.8% or 473 establishments. From 2002 to 2007, the number of small business establishments rose by 22.2% or 1,354 establishments.

Economic Indicators: Peace Country Region					
Small Business Establishments[10] (1 - 49 employees)	2007	2006	2002	1 Year % Change	5 Year % Change
Total All Industries	7,451	6,978	6,097	6.8%	22.2%
Total Goods Industries	2,553	2,502	2,202	2.0%	15.9%
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	585	667	733	-12.3%	-20.2%
Mining and Oil and Gas Extraction	709	648	471	9.4%	50.5%
Utilities	18	14	9	28.6%	100.0%
Construction	1,092	1,030	845	6.0%	29.2%
Manufacturing	149	143	144	4.2%	3.5%
Total Service Industries	4,898	4,476	3,895	9.4%	25.8%
Wholesale Trade	367	287	291	27.9%	26.1%
Retail Trade	625	545	513	14.7%	21.8%
Transportation and Warehousing	678	626	515	8.3%	31.7%
Information and Cultural Industries	50	47	42	6.4%	19.0%
Finance and Insurance	165	138	111	19.6%	48.6%
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	325	299	228	8.7%	42.5%
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	753	760	568	-0.9%	32.6%
Management of Companies and Enterprises	69	52	70	32.7%	-1.4%
Administrative, Waste Management and Remediation	325	305	252	6.6%	29.0%
Educational Services	41	37	41	10.8%	0.0%
Health Care and Social Assistance	313	280	271	11.8%	15.5%
Arts, Entertainment and Recreation	80	84	84	-4.8%	-4.8%
Accommodation and Food Services	229	235	248	-2.6%	-7.7%
Other Services (except Public Administration)	850	752	629	13.0%	35.1%
Public Administration	28	29	32	-3.4%	-12.5%
Source: 2007 Alberta Business Monitor, Alberta Finance and Enterprise					

Small Business (1 - 49 Employees) Establishments Count, 2007



INVENTORY OF MAJOR PROJECTS

As of December 31, 2008, there were 72 projects, which were proposed, planned, under construction or recently completed, in the Peace Country Region.

The total value for these 72 projects for the region was $11.7 billion. The largest projects are in the Oil and Gas sector.

Please note: 2008 and 2007 can not be compared because some projects are carried over several years and there is only one cost available for the entire project

Economic Indicators: Peace Country Region				
Major Construction Projects, As of December 31 [11]				
	Projects		**Value ($millions)**	
Industry Sector	**2008**	**2007**	**2008**	**2007**
Agriculture and Related	1	1	$240.0	$15.4
Biofuels	1	1	$160.0	$160.0
Commercial/Retail	1	2	$24.0	$34.0
Forestry and Related	0	2	$0.0	$325.0
Infrastructure	30	28	$570.5	$546.0
Institutional	18	15	$937.7	$893.9
Oil & Gas	2	2	$7,000.0	$2,590.0
Oilsands	1	0	$25.0	$0.0
Pipelines	4	1	$460.2	$10.0
Power	7	3	$2,283.0	$1,789.0
Residential	3	6	$69.4	$125.8
Tourism/Recreation	4	6	$169.3	$191.5
TOTAL	**72**	**67**	**$ 11,723.1**	**$ 6,671.2**
Source: Alberta Finance and Enterprise, Inventory of Major Alberta Projects				

1. This inventory lists projects in Alberta, valued at $5 million or greater, which have recently been completed, are currently under construction, or are proposed to start construction within two years. Not all projects over this threshold are listed due to reasons of confidentiality and/or due to information not being available at time of printing.
2. Project data is obtained from public information sources. Although, where possible, this data has been verified with the project proponent/developer, users of the inventory may wish to confirm project data with the proponent/developer.
3. The inventory does not breakdown project expenditures by any given year. The cost of the project is the value of expenditures expected over all phases of project construction, which may span over two or more years.
4. The cost of projects listed in the Inventory are estimated values only.

Economic Indicator Definitions
1 Dependency Ratio – The percentage of the population below the age of 15 (Child) and over the age of 64 (Elderly) divided by the number of adults (15 – 64). This is the population of children and elderly that are dependent on the adult population for economic needs.
2 Old Age Dependency Ratio – The percentage of the population over the age of 64 (Elderly) divided by the number of adults (15 - 64).This is the population that is dependent on the adult population for economic needs.
3 Permanent Immigrants – Citizenship and Immigration Canada's (CIC) count of where immigrants are landing within the province of Alberta. This includes spouses, dependents, entrepreneurs, investors, self employed, refugees and family sponsorship. This does not take into account those that land in other Canadian provinces and then move to Alberta.
4 Annualized Percentage Growth, 1997 - 2007, 10 Years (%) – The average annual increase in immigrants over the 10 year period.
5 Labour Force Characteristics – Drawn from Statistics Canada's Labour Force Survey (LFS) or from the Census. The LFS is the source of current, monthly, and annual estimates of total employment (including self-employment) and unemployment. Allocating existing LFS respondents to Economic Indicator Regions results in insufficient data for certain regions (i.e. Insufficient sample sizes). **LABOUR FORCE:** Persons who are 15 years or over that were not institutional residents that were either employed or unemployed for the year. Labour Force = Employed + Unemployed. **PARTICIPATION RATE:** Number of persons from the Labour force expressed as a percentage of the population aged 15 years and over. Participation Rate = (Labour Force / Population 15 years and over)*100. **UNEMPLOYMENT RATE:** Number of unemployed persons expressed as a percentage of the labour force. Unemployment Rate = (Unemployed / Labour Force)*100. **EMPLOYMENT RATE:** Number of employed persons expressed as a percentage of the population 15 years of age and over. Employment Rate = (Employed / Population 15 years and over)*100.
6 Employment by Industry – Based on the LFS or Census data. Industry and occupation codes are assigned using the respondent's job description on the questionnaire. Codes assigned are based on the classifications described in the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS 2002).
7 Income (2006) **Individual Income:** Gross income for individuals filing income tax in Alberta in 2006. **Couple Income:** Gross income for people that defined themselves as married or common law when filing the income tax in Alberta in 2006.
8 Per Capita Building Permit Value ($) – Total value of building permits for a region divided by its population.
9 Establishments with Employees – Business establishments are presented by the North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS) industry codes. Commercial industries are included as are several in the public sector (schools, universities, hospitals, government offices, churches, service clubs, etc.)
10 Small Business Establishments – Business establishment with less than 49 employees and at least one employee. This does not include individuals that are self-employed.
11 Major Projects – As of December 2008, a list of major development projects in Alberta that are valued at $5 million or more that are planned, currently under construction or recently completed. Project data is obtained from public information sources. Updated information is added monthly, print edition is updated quarterly.

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- Alberta's International Merchandise Exports
- Facts on Alberta
- Highlights of the Alberta Economy
- Inventory of Major Alberta Projects
- Monthly Economic Review
- Place-to-Place Price Comparison Survey

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